

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please revise the specification as follows:

Please amend the priority paragraph beginning on page 1, line, as follows:

~~This is a continuing application of~~ This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/735,707, filed on December 12, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Serial Provisional Application No. 60/217,663, filed July 10, 2000, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15, as follows:

~~FIG. 4 provides illustrative spectra of samples obtained from untreated hepatocytes (spectra A-C) versus spectra of samples treated with lovastatin (spectra D-F).~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17, as follows:

~~FIG. 5~~ FIG. 4A-FIG. 4Q HICS-FTMS Data Analysis Software was used to analyze 82 low molecular mass peaks of the HICS-FTMS spectra generated from extracts of rat hepatocytes after they had been treated with various concentrations of lovastatin. Plotted on y-axes are the relative intensities of each peak (normalized against the intensities of the peaks from untreated hepatocytes) against the concentration of lovastatin in μM on the x-axes. The number at the top of each graph is the molecular mass of the corresponding molecule. LOWESS was used to perform linear and non-linear curve fitting. Logistical regression was used to refine the curve fitting and provide accurate statistical measures.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14, as follows:

FIG. 6 ~~5~~ provides illustrative spectra of samples derived from the serum of untreated rats (spectra A-C) versus spectra of samples derived from the serum of rats treated daily over the period of one week with 100 mg/kg 6-(6-hydroxy-5,5-dimethylhexyloxy)-2,2-dimethyl-hexan-1-ol(spectra D-F).